

## Reviews

### SKIN CANCER

*Cancer of the Skin.* By John C. Belisario, C.B.E., E.D., M.D., Ch.M., D.D.M. (Pp. 321+xvii; illustrated. 50s.) London: Butterworth and Co. (Publishers) Ltd. 1959.

Primary skin cancer is much more common in Australia than it is in the United Kingdom and most other countries. For these reasons Dr. Belisario has a particularly wide clinical experience of primary carcinomas of the skin, and the first part of his book is devoted to this subject. In discussing aetiology and prevalence he follows the accepted view that cutaneous carcinoma in most cases depends on the degree of exposure and the susceptibility to sunlight. His table of its association with race and pigmentation, however, is not based on controlled observations, and is one of several examples where conclusions which are accepted as correct appear to have been drawn on inadequate evidence. Again, on page 15 he states: "46.5% of all cancers occurring in white men in Dallas were cancers of the skin, while in Chicago only 12.5% of all cancers in white men involved the skin. This indicates that skin cancer is less common in the north than in the south."

Although this is not a very long book, the author nevertheless aims at completeness and includes mention of other carcinogens which may be operative on the skin surface. In this section it is curious that he should quote carcinoma as arising on lupus vulgaris in 0.5% of cases, but in 6 to 12% of cases of lupus erythematosus. Most dermatologists in Europe would consider carcinoma more likely in lupus vulgaris. There is an interesting chapter on skin manifestations associated with internal malignancy. This group of conditions, which includes acanthosis nigricans, Peutz's syndrome, and generalized pruritus, is of considerable interest to the general physician as well as to the dermatologist.

The radiotherapy of primary carcinoma of the skin, particularly of smaller lesions, is often undertaken by dermatologists in Australia even as an office procedure. In the United Kingdom most dermatologists prefer to ask the radiologist to deal with these cases. The use of radioactive isotopes in superficial therapy is dealt with very briefly.

During the last six years Dr. Belisario has treated most early carcinomas and some advanced lesions by curettage followed by the local application of podophyllin. The treatment of carcinomas by local application of antimetabolic agents has of course often been attempted, but in the past results have been too variable for these methods to be widely adopted.

There is a section on malignant melanoma, followed by chapters on sarcoma, malignant reticulo-endothelioses, and the cutaneous manifestations of leukaemia and polycythaemia.

There are 35 closely printed pages of references in the main part of the book, followed by another two pages of more recent references in the appendix. Among the 200 illustrations in this book there are some very good pictures. A number, however, are below standard, and their inclusion is not particularly helpful. There are eight colour plates of variable quality.

F. RAY BETTLEY.

### SURGICAL ANATOMY OF BACK AND LIMBS

*Anatomy for Surgeons. Volume 3. The Back and Limbs.* By W. Henry Hollinshead, Ph.D. (Pp. 901+xii; illustrated. £8 8s.) London: Cassell and Co. Ltd. 1959.

The third, and presumably last, volume of this textbook of surgical anatomy is, like its predecessors, a thoroughly detailed and scholarly work. Dr. Henry Hollinshead as professor of anatomy at the Mayo Foundation is in the most suitable possible sphere for an anatomist anxious to collaborate to the full with surgery of the first rank.

This book bears no relationship to the old-fashioned manuals of surgical anatomy designed mainly for Final or Fellowship reading. It is essentially a fully detailed textbook of descriptive anatomy, but one arranged in such a way that the surgeon in search of unfamiliar anatomical situations or unexpected variations from the normal can find exactly what he is looking for.

It is inevitable that, concerned as it is with the back and the limbs, it should be of special interest to the orthopaedic surgeon, the vascular surgeon, and the surgeon interested in peripheral-nerve work. The hand, however, is considered in as much detail as the rest of the upper limb, and the descriptions of tissue spaces, tendons and tendon sheaths, joints, vessels, and nerves are superb. The illustrations are most lucid; most of them are simple line drawings, some of them are in two colours. They are artistically most satisfying. The references lay open before the surgeon an anatomical literature with which he is not likely to be familiar: the titles of papers are given, and some of them are well calculated to stimulate curiosity. Developmental anatomy is very lucidly considered and expounded.

The book is large but strongly built, and capable of fairly easy handling on the table or even on the knee, for the pages lie open and flat in a very convenient way. It represents a very high order of the publishing art, particularly in the paper, type, and the lay-out of illustrations and tables. At eight guineas the book is expensive, for presumably the three volumes must cost 24 guineas—not necessarily too costly for its value, but a heavy burden for a private pocket. Medical school and hospital libraries, however, should have it on their shelves.

IAN AIRD.

### MECHANISM OF CARCINOGENESIS

*Ciba Foundation Symposium on Carcinogenesis Mechanisms of Action.* Edited by G. E. W. Wolstenholme, O.B.E., M.A., M.B., B.Ch., and Maeve O'Connor, B.A. (Pp. 336+xii; illustrated. 48s.) London: J. and A. Churchill. 1959.

This volume, which reports the proceedings of a symposium organized by the Ciba Foundation, is dedicated to the memory of the late Sir Ernest Kennaway. The meeting was held in London immediately before the Seventh International Cancer Congress, and was attended by cancer research workers from nine countries, representing all the disciplines now employed in the solution of the many fundamental problems associated with carcinogenesis. In conformity with the modern trend, approximately two-thirds of the eighteen papers dealt with the mechanism of carcinogenesis. Three of these were concerned with co-carcinogenesis; others presented the immunological, pharmacological, and endocrinological aspects, while the mechanism of bladder-cancer induction, the relation of